(d) The increased allocation during Eleventh Plan is expected to lead to increased access while ensuring quality and inclusiveness.

Reviewing the functioning of UGC and AICTE

2827. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry, in tune with the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission has constituted a panel to review the functioning of UGC and AICTE;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference of the panel and by when it would submit its report;

(c) whether the panel would also look into the aspects of regulatory mechanism in the field of higher education and the contemporary changes taking place in the area of university education;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A Review Committee has been constituted by Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to review the functioning of the University Grant Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education. The terms of reference of the Committee are:—

(i) To review the functioning of the UGC/AICTE and to critically assess the role of the UGC/AICTE and their preparedness to provide institutional leadership to the emerging demands of access, equity, relevance and quality of higher education/technical education and the university system.

(ii) To review the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 and various suggestions for amendments to the said Acts by earlier Commissions such as the Prof. Amreek Singh Committee.

(iii) The role of the UGC in coordinating standards of higher education *vis-a-vis* the functional role of other statutory bodies such as AICTE, MCI, DCI, NCI, NCTE, DEC, etc.

(iv) An assessment of the requirements of autonomy of the UGC *vis-a-vis* the Central Government and that of the university system *vis-a-vis* the UGC.

(v) The role of the UGC/AICTE in determining and enforcing standards of higher education/technical education in State Universities and the possibility of introducing a system of incentives and disincentives so that national standards of higher education/ technical education are not compromised or diluted.

(vi) Recommendations in regard to an effective and efficient mechanism for flow of resources from the UGC to the universities for their timely utilization including a mechanism of feedback thereto.

(vii) The requirement of transparency and efficiency in the functioning of the UGC/AICTE.

(viii) The role of the UGC *vis-a-vis* declaration of institutions to be deemed universities and recommendations for streamlining the process adopted by the UGC.

(ix) Recommendations about the need to change the eligibility criteria for becoming eligible to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act 1956.

(x) Any other issue arising out of or relating to the above terms of reference and, the functioning of the UGC/AICTE which the Government or the Committee on its own, may desire to look into.

The Committee is required to submit its report within a period of one year.

Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher education

2828. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the GER for elementary education, high school, higher secondary and higher education, as on today, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether enrolment in unrecognized and non-formal institutions were also incorporated in the GER;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken thereon to achieve sustainable increase in equitable access to quality higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) It is proposed to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education from the present about 10% to 15% by the end of the Eleventh Plan. The various measures/interventions to increase access equity and quality in higher education are as follows:

(i) setting up of 16 Central Universities in uncovered States and 14 world class universities.

(ii) Setting up of 370 new Colleges in districts with low Gross Enrolment Ratio, including 88 Muslim concentrated districts, in partnership with State Governments.

(iii) Incentivising State Governments to set up/expand institutions of higher education.

(iv) Construction of girls' hostels.

(v) Supporting 150 uncovered State Universities and 6000 colleges.

(vi) Reduction in regional imbalance, social gaps and promotion of inclusiveness in higher education.

While computing the GER the enrolment of unrecognized and non formal institutions was not incorporated in 2005-06 as the same is not being collected. A statement indicating the GER as on 30-9-2005 State-wise and category-wise is enclosed.